

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) visited Southwest Research Institute during his District swing in August to receive a status briefing on a new cutting-edge miniaturized electronic system designed to reduce friendly-fire casualties.

“This technology is critical to ensuring that our troops are kept as safe as possible while on the battlefield,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “As warfare becomes more urban and requires smaller tactical teams, the chance of friendly fire increases. This system is exactly what we need to keep those chances low and bring our men and women in uniform home to their loved ones.”

The system is under development by Southwest Research Institute and ATR Electronics, Inc. based in San Antonio. The radio technology will result in an electronic device mounted to rifles that can determine through interrogation whether a target is friendly. Eventually, developers hope the same technology can be mounted on attack aircraft and tanks to provide greater protection to troops in the field.

The \$4.5 million in funding for Phase I, secured through legislation sponsored by Congressman Rodriguez, will allow Southwest Research Institute to demonstrate the feasibility of the system. Future funding will fully develop the system and facilitate miniaturization of the equipment.